
The Premier's Social Cohesion Matches

It is a great pleasure today to announce the 3rd edition of the Premier's social cohesion matches whose sole purpose is to bridge the gap or imaginary gulf that exists between the migrant and native South African communities. I say imaginary gap because ordinarily human beings are gregarious despite nationality, race, and places of origin. It is through systems of men like borders and laws that the separateness of people is emphasised and enforced.

On a sad note, may I also use this opportunity to call for calm in various areas in Durban and Limpopo, where acts of xenophobia are being experienced as we speak, we implore South Africans to understand that fighting, killing migrants, or looting shops and burning their property will not build South Africa nor will it resolve problems of unemployment or crime. Xenophobia itself is a crime. A dialogue is required, working together as humanity to determine the solutions to the ills of our society, short comings of various groupings of people and our governments, for to err is only human. There is nothing that warrants loss of life, nothing is worth killing another human being for and particularly the failings of our systems in helping us live fulfilling lives. This cannot be blamed on other fellow human beings, let us be accountable and responsible in all the actions that we take and not act with mob psychology. We implore the police to act as promptly as possible when xenophobic unrests are reported to help preserve lives and property.

The Honourable Premier of Gauteng, Premier David Makhura leads the biggest province in South Africa in terms of the economy with a lot of migrants and has taken a very positive step to unite the citizens of his province. We could not be prouder today, for this gesture of humanity and leadership and want to invite all other leaders of government, civil society, religion and other sectors of life to pull a page from the Premier's book of leadership.

We invite all people to come to these matches on the 31st of March 2019 at the various centres across Gauteng, and on the 14th of April 2019 for the finals in Westbury. Let us embrace the spirit of oneness and use these matches as a platform to build oneness and fight crime. The crime we are talking about here includes xenophobia, hijackings, murders, flouting municipal by-laws in operating our small businesses. Let us ensure that we the migrant community will report any form of crime that is committed by our fellow migrants and seek to understand the municipal by laws so that we may operate our businesses within the framework of the relevant municipal by-laws so that we do not complain of being harassed when instead we are offending the law. Let us acquaint ourselves with the laws of our host country in terms of running businesses so that all our operations are within the frame work of the law.

If any migrant commits crime this creates a feeling of loathing from native South Africans towards all migrants as we all become lumped in the same group and hence the common rhetoric that migrants are criminals. Migrants are not criminals but certain people, human beings who are migrants commit crime and are criminals but not all or even a quarter of the migrant population.

Honourable Premier, the Provincial government of Gauteng, we express our gratitude publicly today for your work in helping protect our livelihoods by creating a platform between native South Africans and migrants to learn to live in peace and harmony together. We thank you for your undertaking to help get important by-laws within the provincial municipalities translated into various languages spoken by migrants to help facilitate compliance in the operation of businesses. We thank you for your stand to facilitate the enrolment of migrant children in the province, we further thank you for your stand in ensuring that migrants have access to health care without being turned away from healthcare centres. We support you in demanding accountability from governments of all migrants to help pay for their people because the healthcare in those countries is appalling and they have not developed it to preserve lives hence they also seek healthcare from outside their countries.

We know this is not about ordinary free access but a tool to encourage countries to fix their healthcare and improve service delivery in their countries so that all countries have better and improved service delivery and accountable governance. Thank you honourable Premier, and to all you friends and fellow migrants and South Africans, let us go and enjoy these games with the spirit of oneness, the spirit of a rainbow nation, the spirit of ubuntu.

Thank you.